

Annual Report

July 1, 2000 - June 30, 2001

Highlights

"***Cool Libraries: Wise up to Teens***" was a special Fall Council meeting funded by a New Century Grant. The extra funding allowed us to bring in a nationally known speaker and to purchase such "extras" as door prizes, imprinted pens, and special decorations. The program attracted an above average attendance (see below) and program evaluations (summary attached) were positive.

The district purchased a ***Rocket e-book reader*** to use for demonstrations at various library meetings. Bonnie Dwyer brought the device to most meetings during the year so librarians could handle it and learn how an e-book reader works. This generated a lot of interest, and having the device available was appreciated by those who had the opportunity to see it.

An orientation for new directors was held on November 27, 2000. Eight public library directors (either new to the profession or new to CMLD within the past 2 or 3 years) met in the studio at the Maine State Library. The program included a review of programs and services available through the district office and a tour of the Maine State Library. Evaluations were positive.

Board member Jeri Ann Holt donated time to create the design, layout, and navigation structure of the ***CMLD website***, which went online January 25, 2001. Bonnie Dwyer maintains the site.

The district consultant responded to 162 ***inquiries from the field*** during the year, and visited 19 district libraries.

Meetings, Workshops and Programs

District Council Meetings

The Fall Council Meeting, ***Cool Libraries: Wise up to Teens***, was held October 25, 2000, at the Augusta Civic Center with 85 people in attendance.

The Spring Council Meeting, ***The E-book Challenge***, was held May 23, 2001, at the Augusta Civic Center with 55 in attendance.

Planning for Results tri-district grant follow-up.

A small pilot group of Farmington area librarians has met three times since fall, 2000, to do library planning based on the "Planning for Results" process introduced at the 2000 Public Library Directors' Institute.

Public Library Directors' Round Tables were held as follows:

- September 27, 2000 at Patten Free Library in Bath, with 15 attendees
- November 9, 2000 at Bailey Library in Winthrop, with 10 attendees
- January 17, 2001 at Topsham Public Library, with 9 attendees
- March 20, 2001 (snow date) at Hubbard Free Library in Hallowell, with 8 attendees

[total attendance=42]

In the meeting comments, attendees most often cited networking, open discussion, and sharing ideas as the reasons for attending. They were unanimous in saying the meetings met their expectations.

SPARK (Stimulating Programs And Resources for Kids) meetings were held:

- September 7, 2000, Lewiston Public Library, 14 attendees, (Reporting on summer reading programs)
- November 8, 2000, Lithgow Public Library in Augusta, 14 attendees (Volunteers in libraries)
- January 11, 2001, Topsham Public Library, 9 attendees, (Planning summer reading programs)
- March 7, 2001, Gardiner Public Library, 5 attendees (Budgets and collection development)
- May 31, 2001, Norway Public Library, with 9 attendees (Programming for and story hours for infants, toddlers, and pre-schoolers)

[Total attendance=60]

This is a loyal group. Attendees are almost entirely from public libraries; an occasional school librarian attends. Reasons most often cited for attending are: to get programming ideas, professional development, to see other libraries, and to learn about a particular topic. Attendees who turned in evaluations unanimously stated the meeting met their expectations.

Fall Cluster Area meetings were held as follows:

September 11, Wilton - 3 attendees + Edna Comstock for e-rate update

September 12, Bremen - 3 attendees

September 14, North New Portland - 1 attendee + Edna Comstock for e-rate update

September 15, Oxford Hills High School - 3 attendees

September 19, Readfield Public Library - 2 attendees

September 21, Winslow Public Library - 11 attendees

Bonnie Dwyer took the CMLD e-book reader around to all meetings; attendees shared issues, concerns, and news. Eleven public, five school, and one special librarian attended these meetings; evaluations were positive, citing networking keeping current on library issues as the primary reasons for attending.

CASL (Capital Area School Librarians) met four times during the 2000-2001 school year.

- October 4, 2000 at the Maine State Library, with 4 attendees (Elaine Stanley explained what resources and services the MSL can offer area school libraries)
- December 6, 2000 at Gardiner Middle School, with 3 attendees (no specific topic)
- February 7, 2001 at Hall Dale Elementary School, with 4 attendees (Enticing kids to read)
- April 24, 2001 at Manchester Elementary School, with 8 attendees (Internet)

[Total attendance=19]

Networking and learning about the focus topic were cited as reasons for attending these meetings. The meetings met the expectations of those who completed an evaluation.

WASL (Waterville Area School Librarians) met on May 5th for an organizational meeting, 11 attendees. This was a very successful meeting. Some had never met, and they are enthusiastically looking forward to meeting three times during the upcoming school year.

Continuing Education

- ***Introduction to Cataloging*** was taught at Lewiston High School by former district consultant and Maine State Library cataloger Bonnie Collins, 15 students enrolled. Evaluations rated the overall content very good (9) to excellent (3), the instructor's presentation very good (11) to excellent (1), and indicated that the class met their expectations.
- Bonnie Dwyer conducted a ***weeding workshop*** on June 13th at Skowhegan Public Library, at the request of the board of trustees. There were approximately 14 staff, friends, and trustees in attendance.

- The CMLD worked with the other two district consultants in planning the Public Library Directors' Institute and three Trustee Forums.

Professional Collection

The CMLD Professional Collection holdings stand at about 700 items; 127 of these circulated during 2000-2001. Some weeding was done and 59 new items were added.

Book Review Program

The "Five for Five" book review program continues, offering new publishers' books to reviewers in exchange for a written review and one dollar (to defray related expenses, such as copying and shipping). Approximately 2000 books were received from publishers during FY 2000. Most of the books received do get reviewed, with written reviews being sent to the publishers.